What Is Claimed Is:

1   1.   A method for controlling access to files within a plurality of virtual

2 servers, wherein the plurality of virtual servers operate within separate virtual

3 environments on a single computing device, comprising:

4   accepting a file access request;

5   determining if the file access request originated from within a virtual

6 server of the plurality of virtual servers, wherein the virtual server operates within

7 a virtual environment that is insulated from other virtual environments associated

8 with other virtual servers;

9   if the file access request originated from within the virtual server,

10   determining if the file access request is for a new file; and

11   if the file access request is for a new file,

12   assigning an identifier to the new file, wherein the

13   identifier can be used to identify the virtual server, and

14   creating the new file within a storage area

15   associated with a computing device hosting the plurality of

16   virtual servers.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein if the file access request is for an

2 existing file, the method further comprises:

3   retrieving the identifier assigned to the existing file;

4   determining if the identifier is associated with the virtual server that

5 generated the file access request; and

6   if the identifier is associated with the virtual server that generated the file

7 access request, allowing access to the existing file.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein if the file access request is a

2 request to delete the existing file, the method further comprises deleting the

3 existing file.

1   4.   The method of claim 2, wherein if the file access request is a

2 request to modify the existing file, the method further comprises modifying the

3 existing file.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein if the file access request is a

2 request to allocate additional file space, the method further comprises:

3   determining if space is remaining in the storage area associated with the

4 computing device that is available to the virtual server; and

5   if space is remaining in the storage area that is available to the virtual

6 server, allocating the additional file space.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing a system

2 administrator to establish an amount of storage within the storage area associated

3 with the computing device that is available to the virtual server within the

4 plurality of virtual servers.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein if the file access request did not

2 originate from within the virtual server, the method further comprises:

3   determining if the file access request is a request to update the identifier;

4 and

5   if the file access request is a request to update the identifier, updating the

6 identifier.

11

1   8.   A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that

2 when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for

3 controlling access to files within a plurality of virtual servers, wherein the

4 plurality of virtual servers operate within separate virtual environments on a single

5 computing device, comprising:

6   accepting a file access request;

7   determining if the file access request originated from within a virtual

8 server of the plurality of virtual servers, wherein the virtual server operates within

9 a virtual environment that is insulated from other virtual environments associated

10 with other virtual servers;

11   if the file access request originated from within the virtual server,

12   determining if the file access request is for a new file; and

13   if the file access request is for a new file,

14   assigning an identifier to the new file, wherein the

15   identifier can be used to identify the virtual server, and

16   creating the new file within a storage area

17   associated with a computing device hosting the plurality of

18   virtual servers.

1   9.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein if the

2 file access request is for an existing file, the method further comprises:

3   retrieving the identifier assigned to the existing file;

4   determining if the identifier is associated with the virtual server that

5 generated the file access request; and

6   if the identifier is associated with the virtual server that generated the file

7 access request, allowing access to the existing file.

12

1   10.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein if the
2   file access request is a request to delete the existing file, the method further
3   comprises deleting the existing file.

1   11.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 9, wherein if the
2   file access request is a request to modify the existing file, the method further
3   comprises modifying the existing file.

1   12.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein if the
2   file access request is a request to allocate additional file space, the method further
3   comprises:
4   determining if space is remaining in the storage area associated with the
5   computing device that is available to the virtual server; and
6   if space is remaining in the storage area that is available to the virtual
7   server, allocating the additional file space.

1   13.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, further
2   comprising allowing a system administrator to establish an amount of storage
3   within the storage area that is available to the virtual server within the plurality of
4   virtual servers.

1   14.   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 8, wherein if the
2   file access request did not originate from within the virtual server, the method
3   further comprises:
4   determining if the file access request is a request to update the identifier;
5   and

13

6   if the file access request is a request to update the identifier, updating the

7   identifier.

1   15.   An apparatus that facilitates controlling access to files within a

2   plurality of virtual servers, wherein the plurality of virtual servers operate within

3   separate virtual environments on a single computing device, comprising:

4   an accepting mechanism that is configured to accept a file access request;

5   a first determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the file

6   access request originated from within a virtual server of the plurality of virtual

7   servers, wherein the virtual server operates within a virtual environment that is

8   insulated from other virtual environments associated with other virtual servers;

9   a second determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the file

10   access request is for a new file;

11   a creating mechanism that is configured to create the new file within a

12   storage area associated with a computing device hosting the plurality of virtual

13   servers if the file request is for a new file; and

14   an assigning mechanism that is configured to assign an identifier to the

15   new file, wherein the identifier can be used to identify the virtual server.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

2   a retrieving mechanism that is configured to retrieve the identifier assigned

3   to an existing file;

4   a third determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the

5   identifier is associated with the virtual server that generated the file access

6   request; and

7   an accessing mechanism that is configured to allow access to the existing

8   file if the identifier is associated with the virtual server that generated the file.

14

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a deleting
2 mechanism that is configured to delete the existing file if the file access request is
3 a request to delete the existing file.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a modifying
2 mechanism that is configured to modify the existing file if the file access request
3 is a request to modify the existing file.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:
2   a fourth determining mechanism that is configured to determine if space is
3 remaining in the storage area associated with the computing device that is
4 available to the virtual server; and
5   an allocating mechanism that is configured to allocate additional space
6 from the storage area.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising an establishing
2 mechanism that is configured to allow a system administrator to establish an
3 amount of storage within the storage area that is available to the virtual server.

1   21.   The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:
2   a fifth determining mechanism that is configured to determine if the file
3 access request is a request to update the identifier; and
4   an updating mechanism that is configured to update the identifier if the file
5 access request is a request to update the identifier.

15